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Teen Declaration of Independence

When in the course of human events, it comes time to become independent from the people that have raised you to be how you are today. We as teenagers need to come together and show the older generation that we are capable of more than what they think we are. We need to make it clear to them the reasons we are leaving to show that we still have respect for them.

All teenagers are created equal and we all have rights that need to be exercised. We should be able to help influence the more crucial decisions that happen within our school district. We deserve the right to leave our school during lunch to be able to get food that is actually edible. We deserve to have time that is not full of homework, jobs, extracurricular activities, and other activities that take our time. Lastly, we deserve to have the option for classes that would benefit our futures.

For forcing us to stay in school for 8 hours, encouraging us to do extracurricular activities, and giving us mounds of homework every day. All while expecting us to give it our all, day after day. How can it be possible for us to be great students when our lives are so compacted with essentially meaningless activities?

For forcing us to take classes that, in no way, will affect our future. A class like Physical Education are not going to have an impact on our futures. We deserve to have an education that will actually help us in our futures.

For forcing us to stay in school and either eat the barely edible school provided food, or bring our own lunch. Why aren't we allowed to leave the school to get a better lunch? If we were allowed to leave, not only would it most likely improve that general mood of the student body, but it would help support local businesses like Sneakers and Team Oil.

For not giving us a choice in what happens to our school. We don't get to get a say in important decisions that happen in our school. Most of us would probably like to get a say in where the new elementary school would be built, but the decision is up to the adults of the community. Not the student body.

For stereotyping our age groups as lazy, disrespectful, and other demeaning adjectives. Most of our lives are crammed so tightly with stuff to do, which means that we wouldn't have time to be lazy. If adults want us to be respectful, we should get respect in return. There is no reason why adults should stereotype our age group and generation.

For forcing us to participate in school events that take us away from our education. Activities like Junior Olympics should not be a required event to go to during the school day. Most of the student body doesn't want to participate in it. The only reason some people do is because people will yell and scream at them until they do it. If you're a principle or a student council member and you see that people don't want to participate, maybe the event shouldn't keep getting done year after year.

For enforcing a tardy system that makes it seem like a better idea to stay home than come to school late and have to serve detentions. We should not have to feel that way about being late to school. It's not our fault that we have mountains of homework almost every night, not to mention extracurricular activities as well as jobs, that can keep us

awake until insane hours of the night. How are we expected not to accidentally sleep in after a long night of homework?

We, the representatives of the teenagers of Spring Valley High School, declare our Independence from the oppression we face from the older generation. We are forced to follow insane rules, in which we have very little room to make mistakes. We deserve to be allowed to help influence what happens to our school, community, and even the world. We cannot stand idly by and take this oppression. We need to rise up together and declare that we have rights too, and that we can make change and become independent.